

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

news

Fortnightly newsletter for University staff | Volume 38 | Issue 14 | 1 August 2008

First PhD in Dance



Dance Studies PhD candidate Hiromi Sakamoto practises the jive with a Dance student.

The first student to enrol in the University's Dance Studies PhD programme is a Japanese dancer, educator, and performing art and television director who believes dance is an integral part of a democratic society.

Hiromi Sakamoto arrived at the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAI) at the start of the year, after spending two decades in the dance sector in Japan and the United States. He worked as a dance educator at the University of Art and Design in Kyoto, a television director focusing on performance-based TV shows that aired in Japan, and earned a masters degree in dance and dance education at Columbia University in New York City. Throughout all these endeavours, Hiromi explored the answers to one overarching question.

"How can a capitalistic, contemporary society take dance as an important element of society and nurture it, make it prosper, in order to make our place peaceful, harmonious and multi-cultural?" asks Hiromi.

"I studied dance but I was never interested in performing – I was always trying to find funding, opportunities, venues to help other people perform. All the time I was in the dance profession

I always returned to that question."

After deciding to add a research strand to his vast knowledge of dance, Hiromi learned about the Dance Studies programme at NICAI. While visiting New Zealand in 2007, Hiromi met with Head of Dance Studies, Associate Professor Ralph Buck, who encouraged him to apply to the country's first PhD programme.

"Ralph and I clicked – we shared a vision of dance in education, in society. And I was immediately attracted to NICAI – it is very rare for an organisation to incorporate industry into their academic curriculum so for me it was an ideal combination," says Hiromi.

Ralph concurs that Hiromi's academic goals are in keeping with the ethos of the Dance Studies programme.

"Hiromi comes to The University of Auckland with a wealth of experience and ideas. His research focus fits with our Dance Studies vision of educating in, through and about dance for a better understanding of humanity and dance. Hiromi has certainly 'clicked' with the students and the department and is generously sharing his knowledge with others," he says.

(continued on page 2)

Key events

Yet another great tertiary debate

The General Election will be upon us soon. This is your chance to come along and hear the Hon Pete Hodgson (Labour), Minister for Tertiary Education, and Dr Paul Hutchison, National spokesperson for tertiary education, expand on tertiary policy for their respective parties.

Chair for the debate, Associate-Professor Raymond Miller (Political Studies), is charged with keeping the speakers in order. Following presentations from each speaker the floor will be opened to your questions. Come along and hear what they have to say. This is a chance to get answers to, or pose your own question on burning tertiary issues. The debate takes place on 12 August from 7-8.30pm in Engineering Lecture Theatre 1439. For catering purposes at the post-lecture function, RSVP by 7 August to Judith Grey on j.grey@auckland.ac.nz or ext 82309.

Queer animation

At a public lecture on 7 August Professor Judith Halberstam from the University of Southern California will speak about a new genre of animated feature films that use Computer Generated Image (CGI) technology instead of standard linear animation techniques, and surprisingly foreground the themes of revolution and transformation. She shows that in the new animation films certain topics that would simply never appear in adult films are central to the success and emotional impact of these narratives. The lecture will take place on 7 August at 6.30pm in Theatre B4 in the Owen G. Glenn Building.

From mind to brain

A symposium in honour of Professor Michael Corballis (Psychology) will take place on 15 and 16 August at the Hyatt Hotel. Around 20 papers will be presented on topics ranging from the mechanisms of face perception to the evolution and development of mental time travel, and from Huntington's Disease to "Laterality: What's left to get right"

In this issue

- 3 | Mixed flatting in 1981
- 4 | Māori language celebrated
- 6 | Former VC recounts career

From the Vice-Chancellor

On 28 July, we began consultation with staff, student representatives, the Auckland City Council, and local community groups on some broad proposals for the possible future development of our campuses.

If we are to achieve our vision of a leading international university that attracts top staff and students, then we must create a world-class teaching, learning and research environment. However, our rapid growth over the last 15 years, coupled with ongoing financial pressures, means that we have a backlog of deferred maintenance, departments and schools in some faculties that are widely dispersed, and facilities need considerable investment to bring them up to standard. This means that we must create a long-term, coherent plan for the development of our campuses.

The consultation process seeks views first on a series of principles that might underpin the development of the plan. These include: as far as possible, teaching and research activities should be concentrated on the City/Grafton Campus; the University strategy should drive faculty and campus plans; each department's undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and research should ideally be co-located according to today's faculty boundaries; each campus should have a stable and sustainable level of academic activity, with facilities and an environment that support quality teaching, learning and research; and, when designing facilities, priority should be given to having teaching and learning activities, and student support functions, located centrally.

The application of these principles, together with our planned growth path (modest growth in student numbers, and then only in postgraduates; significant growth in research), then leads to a series of broad proposals. These include: locating the Law School on the current Eden Crescent site, perhaps in collaboration with the Courts; consolidating Arts in sector 200, around the current Human Sciences Building (HSB); relocating Education from Epsom to a purpose-built complex adjacent to HSB; relocating Elam to a site adjacent to the Architecture Building, and using the present Elam site for better student accommodation; bringing together some of the dispersed departments of Science and Engineering; expanding and refurbishing the Grafton Campus; and developing Tamaki with a postgraduate/business development focus.

These are very broad but important proposals and I would encourage all staff to take an interest. Further details are provided at www.auckland.ac.nz/campus-development

proposals. Comments on these broad proposals may be sent to campusconsultation@auckland.ac.nz.



Women engineers have best of both



Carron Blom

If ever there was doubt about engineering being an excellent career choice for women, then a presentation by leading and upcoming female engineers has certainly cleared up the matter.

"The best of both worlds – being a woman and an engineer" was a chance for some of New Zealand's most successful female engineers to talk about what they love about working in the traditionally male-dominated industry, and how attitudes have changed.

The panel presentation held at Old Government House on 18 July was part of Winter Week on Campus run by the Centre for Continuing Education.

The panel included Katie Marriott, Managing Director of her own engineering firm, Katrina Kidson, the first woman to be employed by MWH New Zealand, where she remains today, and Carron Blom, the Managing Director of Anguillid Consulting Engineers and Scientists Ltd.

The audience also heard from engineering students Laura Abraham, Anita Walbran and Claire Oliver.

The Faculty's Women in Engineering Equity Adviser Robyn MacLeod says the event was a chance to show people that women engineers really do exist, they love their careers and are found at the highest levels of the profession.

(story continued from page 1)

Since his arrival at the University, Hiromi has thrown himself into the world of dance in New Zealand, particularly dance with indigenous roots and influences. Featured recently on TVNZ's *Marae* programme, Hiromi was a vocal and highly visible guest of the Māori Studies' Kapa Haka course. At the end-of-semester show in June, Hiromi's performance was so strong that he was asked to attend stage two Kapa Haka – a rare invitation for international students.

Hiromi has also befriended the members of Sweet and Sour, a west Auckland-based Hip Hop group heading to the World Hip Hop Competition in Las Vegas at the end of July. Describing New Zealand's national champions of Hip Hop as "unique, funny, haka- and Pacific-Island-influenced", Hiromi lends them his support and encouragement, as well as advice on fundraising strategies.

"I am drawn to dance that is connected to social imagination, and indigenous dance in New

Zealand is an example of that connection. It offers a new dimension if, for example, you are invited to see Māori through Māori eyes," says Hiromi.

Across all his experiences in the new country he calls home, Hiromi explores how the ideals of culture, politics and dance can unite to form a creative, enriched society that acknowledges and values artistic expression. He says by not sending troops to Iraq, by seriously addressing climate change issues, and by welcoming immigrants largely without conflict, New Zealand is one of the few countries in the world where such an exploration is possible.

"When it comes to dance the creative process is always unknown, which means there is space for the imagination, the unexpected, the undefined, the experimental. That creative process is a core part of democracy and a crucial part of what sets New Zealand apart from the rest of the world."

Retrospective 1883-2008



The lack of a dining-room does not bother this group of students (plus a friend) who gather in one of the bedrooms in their shared house for an evening meal. By doing without a lounge/dining-room, they can split the rent among more people for greater economy.

Mixed flatting, which became popular in the early 1970s, appeals to university students living on a restricted budget with a life-style partly dominated by lecture hours, essays, assignments, tests and examinations. A former student president commented that the advantages of mixed flatting were many, in spite of the prejudices of the time. In his opinion, it improved the manners of the males, made the females less "sloppy" and generally improved the attitudes of students in groups to the needs of others.

Mixed flatting is now commonplace, especially with students at Auckland University. A room in a house or flat cost an average of \$17.80 in 1980/81, though many now expect to pay at least \$20.

Some enterprising students have managed to find a reduced-rent arrangement, like one group living in an old house in Herne Bay/Ponsonby. The rent is low (\$50 a week — \$10 each for the five occupants), but all maintenance on the house is the responsibility of the tenants, and they had to find their own furniture. This particular group consists of three students and two apprentices. An arrangement involving non-students does not

always work well, but in this case there is co-operation in respecting the need for silence when a test or exam is looming. The students also frequently study in the University Library. Each person has his/her own room, all chores are shared, and everyone is expected to contribute equally to the running of the household, which is done on a democratic basis. A meeting is held each week for general discussion and to provide an opportunity to make suggestions or air grievances.

The group tries to keep food costs down to \$12 a week each (although this is not always possible in the winter), the phone works out at about 50 cents, and electricity costs vary according to the weather and other factors — perhaps \$1 to \$1.50. Lunches are extra ("unless we are really hard up and then we take a sandwich or something") but lunch can be bought at the student cafe for under \$1, so the total basic essential outlay for everyone is about \$28 to \$30 a week.

Extracts from 'Five in a House', University of Auckland News, 11, 6, 1981

The challenge of change

"In the University and in the wider world," says Maclairin Chaplain Uesifili Unasa, "there is a strong and increasing need to build understanding between people of different faiths."

This is the rationale behind the multi-faith conference, Uni-Diversity: The challenge of change to take place in the Owen G. Glenn Building on 8 and 9 September.

Among the speakers are Paul Weller, Professor of Inter-religious Relations at the University of Derby in the UK; Sylvia Bell, principal legal and policy adviser at the Human Rights Commission; and Mohammad Javed Khan, president of the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand;

as well as a number of academics from New Zealand universities — including Manuka Henare from The University of Auckland Business School, who will give a perspective on Māori spirituality.

"Religious diversity confronts us with many challenges," says Uesifili. "The place of religion in the public arena, the accommodation of various religious practices in public institutions such as schools and universities, and the real fear of religious conflict are just some of the questions that have no ready answers and require serious consideration."

Please visit www.multifaith2008.ac.nz for further information and to register.

... in brief

High honour for distinguished scholar

Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond (Māori Studies) has been elected a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy. Election to the Academy confers on scholars in the humanities and social sciences a similar distinction to that accorded to their peers in scientific disciplines who are elected to the Royal Society in London.

Each year a maximum of ten nominations are considered from around the world for election of corresponding fellows to the Academy. This high honour recognises Anne Salmond's contributions to anthropological and historical scholarship.

Primatologist coming in 2009

Dr Frans B. de Waal, one of the world's most prominent primatologists, will deliver next year's Sir Douglas Robb Lectures in late March on "Our inner ape".

In the three-lecture series he will discuss moral emotions in humans and animals, animal empathy, and what primates know about and learn from each other.

Dr de Waal is C. H. Candler Professor in the Psychology Department at Emory University, Atlanta, and Director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center. Full details of his lectures can be found at www.auckland.ac.nz/robb

• Texts of the three lectures by Professor Sheldon Rothblatt, the Robb lecturer in 2008, on "The uses of the university" revisited" are at www.auckland.ac.nz/uoq/about/events/2008/03/lectures/s.rothblatt-robb.cfm

New Royal Society Fellow

Warm congratulations to Professor Bakh Khoussainov (Computer Science) who has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Bakh's research interests are in logic, computability, automata, and applications. Bakh's awards have included the New Zealand Mathematical Society Research Award (2002) and a University of Auckland Distinguished Teaching Award (2002). He has been awarded fellowships of the Japan Society for Promotion of Science (2001) and the Humboldt Fund (2002).

More recognition for prominent scientists

Professor Margaret Brimble (Chemistry) and Professor Garth Cooper (SBS) are recognised in the July edition of *Unlimited* magazine as being two of New Zealand's most influential scientists. They both add this latest recognition to a number of high accolades in recent years.

Lifting Pacific students' sights

"It made me understand that my future is important and taught me to aim high — and not to settle for second best."

This was typical of the positive feedback received to the seventh Dream Fonotaga held in Rotorua in early July.

The annual week-long camp to encourage Pasifika school students to take the leap to tertiary education involved 142 Year 12 students from 13 mid- to low-decile schools in south, west, east and central Auckland.

All had shown the ability to undertake tertiary study without yet achieving to their potential. They were handpicked for their leadership qualities and willingness to participate.

They were broken into 12 groups, each headed by a current University of Auckland student mentor from a similar background to their own. From 8am to 10pm they were kept busy with workshops, presentations and discussions aimed at prompting them to articulate and achieve their educational dreams.

They heard from Pasifika role models such as Junior Williams (now head of drama at Henderson High School), Tarx Morrison (a freelance film director) and Efeso Collins (who was the face of Dream Fonotaga from its inception in 2002 until last year).

While promoting The University of Auckland as somewhere to aspire to, the event was collegial in spirit. Pacific liaison officers from AUT, Unitec, MIT, Massey and Otago Universities conducted a two-hour session and handed out literature.

"Dream Fonotaga is all about trying to lift students' sights and motivate them to reach their goals," says Shana Malio-Satele who was in charge this year. "There was a terrific buzz across the group, and everyone went away enthused for tertiary study and where it can take them."

This is amply confirmed by two of the students: "Dream Fonotaga has been the most exciting, motivating, inspiring and renewing experience," said one. "It made me realise I am a strong individual and that it is okay to have barriers and obstacles. This has helped me to refocus for when I get back to school."

Another wrote: "I've really stepped out of my comfort zone, and I came here not wanting to go to uni but now I do!"

Two of the mentors were left with a similar impression. "Seeing the smiles on their faces and the joy in their eyes — that's what made it for me," says John Paul Ramsay, a BA Honours/LLB student. "It gave them a different outlook on reality," says April Poulia who is taking a BA/LLB.

Māori Language Week 2008



This photo was taken in Wellington on 14 September 1972 when the Te Reo Māori Petition was presented to Parliament. The kaumatua leading the group is Te Ouenuku Rene and immediately behind him are two of the key people involved in the event, Koro Dewes (at left carrying briefcase) and Hana Jackson (centre).

Dr Joseph Te Rito (Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga) writes of Māori Language Week — a time for celebration. This is an abbreviated version of an article published in the *NZ Herald* on 21 July.

Once again we celebrate Māori Language Week.

The theme for 2008 is "Māori language in the home". It is a theme which aligns with the teachings of world-renowned linguist, Joshua Fishman, who argues that in order for a language to survive there must be intergenerational transmission in the home.

In the 1970s the New Zealand Council for Educational Research showed that only 18-20 percent of all Māori could speak their own language and these were mainly elderly folk who lived in rural areas. By 1996 this figure had plummeted to eight percent.

Today, some positive trends indicate that intergenerational transmission of Māori language is underway. Data from the 2006 Census show that 24 percent of Māori could hold a conversation in Māori about everyday things and 10 percent speak the language regularly in the home.

Significantly, an increasing proportion of these are young people.

In 1970 I went to Victoria University and joined the Te Reo Māori Society set up by Koro Dewes. We teamed up with Auckland-based Ngā Tamatōa and carried out petition drives to gather support for having Māori language taught in schools. We collected over 30,000 signatures for the petition spearheaded by the inspirational Hana Jackson (née Hemara).

We presented the petition to Parliament on 14 September 1972, an action that led to the establishment of the first Māori Language Day which has now evolved into the Māori Language Week we celebrate today. This led to the development of pilot bilingual schools in the early 1980s and then kohanga reo, kura kaupapa and wharekura (total immersion pre-schools, primary schools and high schools), and wānanga (Māori-focused tertiary institutions).

In 1985, a claim headed by Huirangi Waikerepuru and others of Ngā Kaiwhakapūmau i

(continued on page 5)

(story continued from page 4)

Te Reo Māori and by the New Zealand Māori Council was lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal. The claim was that the Crown had breached the Treaty of Waitangi in failing to protect the Māori language as a taonga (treasure). Recognition of this failing resulted in the passing of the Māori Language Act in 1987, whereby the Māori Language Commission was established and Māori recognised as an official language of this country.

In 2003 the Government revised their Māori Language Strategy with the vision that, by 2028, the Māori language would be widely spoken. With the Māori Television Service established in 2004, and the increased presence of Māori radio networks, the chances of this being realised are greatly improved. To achieve it, however, more New Zealanders need to learn the Māori language. To start with, it can be made much more widely and fully available to the nation's children in mainstream schools.

The results of a survey into attitudes towards the Māori language conducted from 2000-2006 are encouraging. Support by non-Māori for Māori language being spoken in public doubled from 40-80 percent, with 76 percent of respondents supportive of Māori radio, and 70 percent supportive of the Māori Television Service.

Other positive indicators include advancements in information technology which will really push the

Māori language out into the international arena and cyberspace. The surveys show a great increase by Māori in the use of Māori language when emailing. Microsoft have developed a Māori language version of some of its products; and a Māori language version of Google is being launched this week. This all bodes well for the future.

However there is one indicator I remain concerned about: the quality of Māori language being produced. The language used by my grandparents 20 years ago has changed greatly with today's generations. There is a vastly different type of proficiency today. There is a need for New Zealanders, both non-Māori and Māori, to strive for excellence in Māori language proficiency. The emphasis of the Government's strategic focus needs to extend now from quantity to quality.

We have reason to look forward optimistically, knowing the efforts of the Māori language activists of the 1970s, of subsequent Māori language revivalists, of non-Māori supporters and of Government have not been in vain. There is no room for complacency, however. Let's continue to teach and learn the Māori language and in doing so find out more about Māori culture – they are potentially two of New Zealand's greatest untapped resources.

Keen learners brave cold

The frosty morning conditions did not deter the 145 keen adult learners who attended the Centre for Continuing Education's annual Winter Week on Campus held in the inter-semester break.

The Winter Week programme provides the community with an opportunity to access the expertise of University lecturers. Participants attended lectures in such diverse topics as the law of shipwreck, green roofs, MMP, the philosophy of evil and musical composition. This year's lectures were in six different disciplines with 20 presenters from the Faculties of Arts, Law, and Engineering, and the School of Music.

Continuing Education Programme Managers, Jo Davies and Libby Passau, say that since Winter Week began in 2000, many of the attendees have made it a highlight of their winter season.

"They enjoy the opportunity to explore new topics, to debate and discuss issues of the day and to learn about some of the interesting research being carried out in the University. The Staff Common Room is alive with conversation during the breaks as people discuss the lecture they've just attended. They learn a lot from each other as well".

Participant Flo Ross enjoys the stimulation of Winter Week as it makes her feel "so mentally alive". She says the lecturers all deserve accolades for their enthusiasm and ability to connect with their audience.

Eileen Lindop comments that Winter Week is an enjoyable and painless way of re-arranging everyone's prejudices, which in her opinion is arguably the objective of education.

Associate Professor Scott Optican (Law) was delighted to take part in the lecture series, which he says gives University academics like himself a chance to share ideas with, and connect to, a wider public audience.

Dr Paul Taillon and Jennifer Frost (History) presented a brief historical perspective on the United States, and say that the students in their lecture option were delightful: engaged with the subject and full of questions. Both said it was a true joy to teach and learn from the students.

The Faculty's Women in Engineering Equity Adviser Robyn MacLeod hosted a panel of six leading and upcoming female engineers as part of the "Engineering today" lectures (page 2). Robyn says it was a chance for some of New Zealand's most successful female engineers to talk about what it is like to work in a traditionally male-dominated industry. Robyn says the event showed people that women engineers really do exist, that they love their careers and they are found at the highest levels of the profession.

The team at Continuing Education looks forward to Winter Week on Campus every year. They enjoy the challenge of designing a programme which showcases the teaching and research excellence of the University and provides an opportunity for members of the community to get a taste of university life. Plans and ideas for 2009 are already underway.

The end of hatred

It has often been suggested that the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will require forgiveness on the part of both Palestine and Israel.

However, little has been done to spell out what such forgiveness might involve. In everyday contexts in which one individual forgives another, forgiveness is both something we feel and something we do. When A has been wronged by B, A may justifiably feel anger, resentment, or the like toward B. Forgiveness involves some reduction in that anger and a refusal to nurse it or act on it if it recurs. Ordinarily, it also involves the restoration of feelings of goodwill toward the forgiven and a commitment to treat the other in ways that manifest that goodwill.

However, when we shift the focus from individuals to collectives, we might wonder how many of the qualities of individual forgiveness can be preserved. In particular, we might wonder whether the feelings involved in individual forgiveness can play a role in collective or political forgiveness. I want to suggest both that they can and that they should.

The underlying idea is that there are social and institutional features within a collective that function like the dispositional elements of an emotion do within an individual, embodying and reinforcing certain emotional and behavioural responses within that collective. For example, the way in which the Israeli educational curriculum and popular media portray the conflict with "the terrorists" invites certain types of response to Palestinians and to the Palestinian struggle.

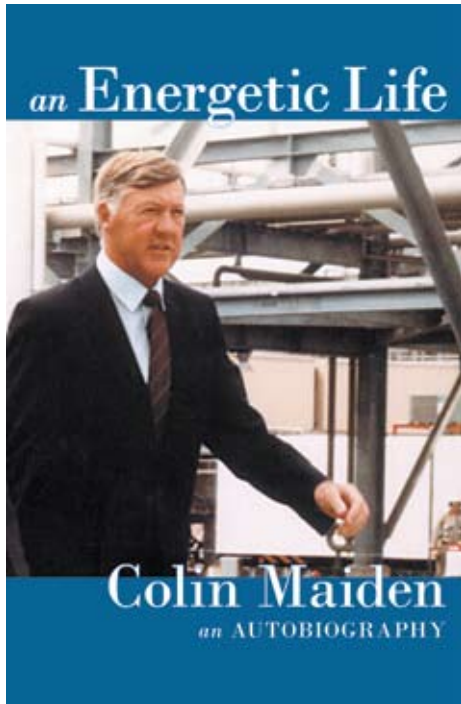
Similarly, official holidays in Palestine such as Catastrophe Day, Land Day, Prisoners' Day, Jerusalem Day, and the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, reinforce antagonistic feelings within the Palestinian population by providing a recurring reminder of wrongs suffered, an official interpretation of the meaning of key events in the conflict, and a sanctioned outlet for the expression of anti-Israeli sentiment.

The end of hatred in the Middle East, of which Israeli Prime Minister Olmert often speaks, will require a change in these aspects of collective life. If there is to be collective forgiveness there will need to be a change in collective dispositions.

Dr Glen Pettigrove (Philosophy)

Happy and healthy

"Happy mothers, healthy children" is a free public lecture by visiting Hood Fellow Professor Michael Meaney, McGill University, Canada, on the importance of early mother-child interactions in determining children's long-term mental and physical health. The lecture is at 6pm, Wednesday 13 August, Owen G. Glenn Building OGG3. Bookings: Liggins Institute ext 86229.



Former VC recounts career

The University's second and longest-serving Vice-Chancellor, Sir Colin Maiden, has written his autobiography.

An Energetic Life, published by Dunmore Publishing, recounts the highlights of a distinguished and varied career in high-level engineering and business, in promoting energy self-sufficiency and as a company director, as well as in academia.

On graduating with a Master of Engineering at Auckland Sir Colin went as a Rhodes Scholar to Oxford where he gained his DPhil. After time as a research engineer in antiballistic and defence science in Canada and a leading engineer and executive for General Motors in the United States, Sir Colin returned to New Zealand in 1971, aged 37, to lead his alma mater.

During his 24 years as Vice-Chancellor the roll grew from under 10,000 to 24,000, research activity was boosted, a massive building programme transformed the City Campus, the University's organisation was overhauled, and student sporting facilities were developed.

His visible legacies include Waipapa Marae, the Maidment Theatre, the Recreation Centre, the School of Music, the Tamaki Campus and adjoining Colin Maiden Park. The Medical School, now the Grafton Campus, was established during

his tenure, as was Auckland UniServices Ltd.

He describes this period as "the most rewarding of my career" and "all so worthwhile: helping young people to further their education and creating an environment that encouraged staff and postgraduate students to make major research contributions in their fields of expertise".

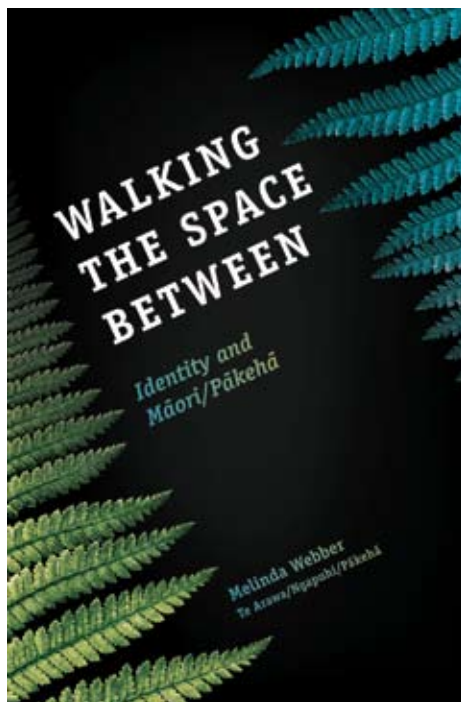
In the 1970s and 1980s Sir Colin was a key figure in the Government's synthetic fuels energy programme. As chair of the NZ Synthetic Fuels Corporation he promoted New Zealand's production of liquid fuels and moves to partial energy self-sufficiency.

His skills and corporate experience made him sought after as a company director and chairman. He has served on the boards of numerous companies, among them NZ Refining, DB Breweries, Transpower, Fisher & Paykel, INL, Farmers, NZ Steel and Tower.

Few New Zealanders have been involved at the top level in such a variety of activities in New Zealand and overseas. His book provides insights into the operations and challenges faced by core businesses and organisations in this country.

Sir Colin's account will resonate with many readers whether their interest lies in business, energy or university education.

An Energetic Life, 256 pages long and well illustrated, is published in paperback. It costs \$38 and is stocked by most booksellers.



Book explores Māori-Pakeha experience

A new book by a Faculty of Education lecturer delves into the experience of being a New Zealander of Māori-Pakeha descent.

Walking the Space Between (NZCER Press) is written by Melinda Webber (Te Arawa/Ngapuhi/Pakeha) from the Department of Teaching Learning and Development.

Melinda examines how she has come to state her ethnic identity as Māori, despite having strong Scottish heritage on both sides. The book contains detailed interviews with six others about the complex nature of straddling two distinctly New Zealand ethnic groups – Māori and Pakeha, each with their own prescriptive criteria for inclusion. Their stories reveal how some people of mixed Māori descent sit on the margins of both groups, forever negotiating the right to be included. Ideas – often unspoken – about who is considered a "real Māori" in the Māori world, and the "right kind of Māori" in the Pakeha world, play a prominent role in shaping their sense of in-betweenness.

Melinda says that feeling is often exacerbated at school, where Māori students are expected to tick certain boxes, such as being good at sport and speaking te reo. For her and those she interviewed, it was not until they were older and in tertiary education that they realised they could work out their own identity and that it could be fluid rather than fixed.

"The older I get, the more I'm sure about my right to decide what being Māori means for me and my family and my child, and to enact that, regardless of how different it is to what other Māori do," she says. "Identity is shifting, our culture is shifting."

Melinda says there is a need for a more robust debate in New Zealand about ethnic identity, particularly when more and more people have transnational or mixed-heritage backgrounds. As a teacher educator, she would like to see trainee teachers being taught to better understand what they bring to the classroom, through an examination of their own identities.

"If you are going to teach a diverse range of students, then as a first step you have to understand yourself and the lens through which you see the world."

From the collection



Gordon Walters (1919-1995) *Painting no.2 1966*, PVA on hardboard 1220 x 910mm

Variations of the curving stem and bulb form of the koru made their earliest appearances in Gordon Walters' work in the mid-1950s. Joining the Government Printing Office in Wellington in

1954, he prepared gouache studies after work and at weekends. A decade earlier, Dutch Indonesian artist Theo Schoon (1915-1985) had introduced him to Ngai Tahu rock art and invited him to South Canterbury to view the drawings in Weka Pass. What he saw there inspired the later Māori designs in Walters' work.

Abstractions by Piet Mondrian and Victor Vasarely were also subjects of careful study on his trip to Europe and Australia from 1950-53. They led him to "eliminate to the limit", reducing his painting to geometrical shapes, lines and colours. Walters makes over the koru, rendering it as a band with a circle at the end drawn with a compass and ruler. The result is severe, hard-edged and impersonal, designed to achieve an ideal figure ground ambiguity.

Shortages of linseed oil during World War Two had led to the development of new synthetic paints in Britain. Australian artists were early adapters, becoming known as the Dulux and Masonite brigade. From the late 1950s, PVA (polyvinyl acetate) paint was manufactured in New Zealand. By buying their paint from the hardware store instead of the art supply shop, Kiwi artists signalled that their work was leading in a new direction.

Thick and opaque, PVA emulsion paint

Art

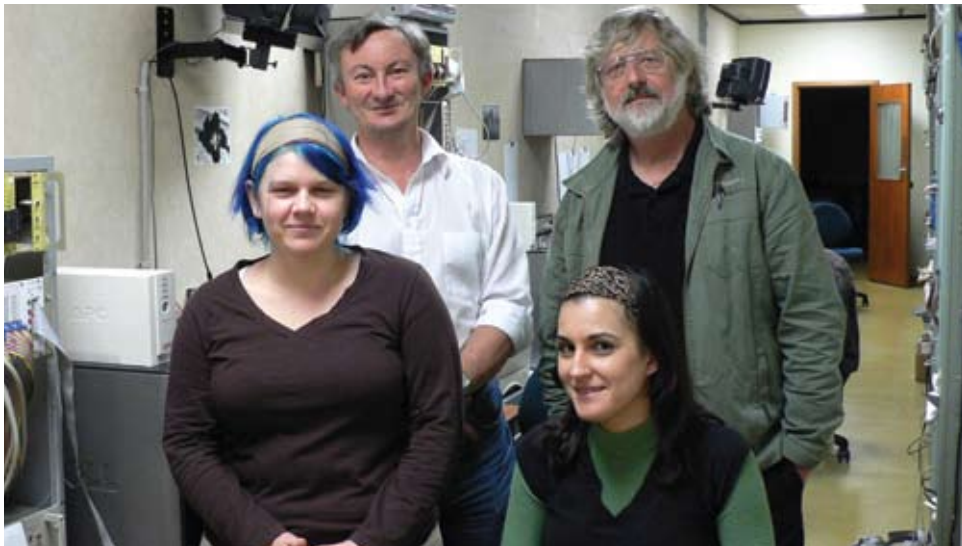
encouraged a viewer's attention to focus on the surface of a painting. Walters' aim was a neutral skin of colour but his use of smooth hardboard as his painting support (in emulation of Australian modernism) mitigated against this. Brushstrokes and modulations in paint density are evident in the black centre of *Painting no.2 1966* and Walters later switched to canvas to fix the problem of unwanted texture.

Having not exhibited for 17 years, Walters organised a show of koru paintings at New Vision Gallery in Auckland in March 1966, explaining: "My work is an investigation of positive/negative relationships within a deliberately limited range of forms. The forms I use have no descriptive value in themselves and are used solely to demonstrate relations. I believe that dynamic relations are the most clearly expressed by the repetition of a few simple elements." The New Vision exhibition established Walters' reputation as a painter with an austere personal style which could achieve a wide repertoire of effects and allowed him to become a full-time artist.

Painting no.2 1966 features in the Gus Fisher Gallery exhibition *The New Vision Gallery 1965-1976* curated by Art History graduate Joanna Trezise on show until 16 August.

Linda Tyler

Foremost world lab recognised



Back row: Dr Douglas Elliffe and Professor Michael Davison.
Front row: Michelle Banicevich and Nathalie Boutros, PhD students

A major award, never before been given to an organisation outside the United States, is to be presented to the Experimental Analysis of Behaviour Research Unit in the Department of Psychology.

The award for "Enduring programmatic contributions to behavior analysis" will be presented by the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis at its international annual convention in Phoenix, Arizona, in May 2009.

The award recognises 40 years of empirical research and theoretical contributions by this laboratory, mostly published in the foremost

journal in this area, the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*.

Three members of this lab — Professor Michael Davison (Director), Professor Dianne McCarthy (now CEO of the Royal Society of New Zealand) and Dr Douglas Elliffe — and one previous member, Dr Brent Alsop (now at Otago) have been action editors of this journal.

Many of the more than 30 PhD graduates of the lab now have academic jobs around the world, and New Zealand is very highly thought of in this area.

The lab, started by Michael Davison and Ivan Beale in 1969, has always run as a cooperative

venture by academic staff and students, with each person (including academics) running every lab experiment one day a week. In this way, all have had a vested interest in all research.

"Soon after starting," says Michael Davison, "the lab became (as it remains) the foremost lab in the world in terms of both equipment and research output. It has attracted many sabbatical visitors from around the world."

The research concentrates on detailed empirical research on choice — how animals distribute their behaviour between alternatives that differ in various ways. This is fundamental psychological research but does have applications in many clinical areas such as behaviour therapy, and supports the training in behaviour analysis practice now available in the graduate Applied Behaviour Analysis programme.

Extensive data on choice is collected and described using mathematically-based theories to predict future behaviour. This has been particularly successful, with prediction often accounting for more than 95 percent of the variation in choice behaviour.

Understanding choice and the way it changes according to environmental change is the basis of understanding all behaviour and learning.

Currently, the EABRU and its lab are run, and the students are supervised, by Professor Michael Davison (Director) and Dr Douglas Elliffe (Deputy Director), but its success over many years is due to all of the students and staff who have taken part.

What's on

SATURDAY 2 AUGUST

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery. John Hurrell, freelance critic, curator and artist, explores the work of Don Driver, who had his first solo exhibition at the New Vision Gallery.

SUNDAY 3 AUGUST

Auckland Museum Institute lecture

Dr Phillip Lars Manning, Lecturer in Palaeontology and Research Fellow, School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, University of Manchester: *Grave secrets of the dinosaurs*. 2pm Auditorium, Auckland War Memorial Museum. For bookings phone 306-7048 or email bookings@aucklandmuseum.com

MONDAY 4 AUGUST

All Canada Day

9.30am-2pm iSpace, 4th Floor, Kate Edger Information Commons. The Canadian High Commission presents All Canada Day. Learn about academic research and student exchange opportunities in Canada. Hosted by the Research Office and Auckland International. RSVP to ext 84886 or email e.kelly@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 5 AUGUST

Winter Lecture series 2008:

Challenges for research in modern academia

Dr Tim Dare, Senior Lecturer, Dept of Philosophy, UoA: *Exploring the relationship between ethics and research in the current environment*. 1-2pm Maidment Theatre. Chair: Assoc-Prof Martin Wilkinson, School of Population Health, UoA.

Teaching and Learning workshop for academic staff

Adele Graham: *Engaging students in the classroom: Discussion activities for tutorials and classes up to 40*. 1-4pm CAD Seminar Rm, 5th Floor, 76 Symonds St. Register to cadreception@auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 6 AUGUST

Faculty of Education public lecture

Prof Keith Barton, Fulbright senior specialist: *Can history teach us to care about each other? Citizenship, values, and identity in the school curriculum*. 5.30-6.30pm J2 Lecture Theatre, 74 Epsom Avenue (parking gate 2), Epsom Campus. RSVP by Monday 4 August to Suzanna Irwin on 623-8899 ext 47552 or s.irwin@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 7 AUGUST

Holy Communion

12.30-12.50pm Maclaurin Chapel, 18 Princes St. A weekly Holy Communion service will be held today led by the Maclaurin Chaplain. All students and staff are welcome.

Public lecture

Prof Martin Krygier, University of New South Wales; NZ Law Foundation Distinguished Visiting Fellow 2008: *Misconceiving the rule of law: Why those who have it find it hard to understand and those who need it find it hard to get.*

6.15pm Stone Lecture Theatre, School of Law, 9 Eden Cres.

RSVP to 373-7599 ext 85971 or lawreception@auckland.ac.nz if attending drinks and nibbles in Law School staff lounge from 5.30pm.

Department of Film, Television and Media Studies seminar

Judith Halberstam, University of Southern California: *Queer animation*. 6.30pm Theatre B4, Owen G. Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Rd.

FRIDAY 8 AUGUST

Dept of Computer Science/Dept of Statistics public lecture

Richard Stallman: *Interaction between copyright and digital rights management*. 11am-12.30pm Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

SATURDAY 9 AUGUST

International Sylvia Ashton-Warner Centennial Conference 2008

Until 10 August. Hosted by the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Arts. An opportunity for scholars, writers, literary critics, teachers and others to celebrate and critique the work of this talented and complex woman. Speakers include Sylvia's son, Elliot Henderson; Professor Emeritus of English CK Stead, who will interview Robert Gottlieb, Sylvia's New York-based publisher, via satellite; Lynley Hood, Sylvia's biographer; and Iritana Tawhiwhirangi, Sylvia's colleague and founder of Te Kohanga Reo. Visit www.education.auckland.ac.nz

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery. Phil Dadson, artist gives a presentation on the interlocking group rhythms of hocketing, a phenomenon common in nature, in response to his work *Gung Ho* in the exhibition *The Swarm*.

MONDAY 11 AUGUST

Teaching portfolios at the UoA

1.30-3.30pm CAD Seminar Rm, Level 5, 76 Symonds St. Register to cadreception@auckland.ac.nz Different forms of teaching portfolios are required for different purposes. However, all teaching portfolios draw on a teaching archive, the development of which is a long-term project. The purpose of this two-hour workshop is to provide key information relating to the presentation of a portfolio for a Teaching Excellence Award.

TUESDAY 12 AUGUST

Winter Lecture series 2008: Challenges for research in modern academia

Profe Peter Hunter, Director, Auckland Bioengineering Institute, UoA: *Opportunities and challenges of international research collaboration*. 1-2pm Maidment Theatre. Chair: Prof Maureen Molloy, Women's Studies, UoA.

Public Policy Group seminar

Rebecca Miller, Ascari Partners and Glen Wright, UMR Research: *Doing policy research in the commercial sector*. 1-2pm Rm 901, HSB. Queries to Dr Humpage, I.humpage@auckland.ac.nz

Department of Sociology seminar

Prof Adrian Franklin, University of Tasmania: *City life: The sociologist*

and the 'livable' city. 6.30pm Lecture Theatre 401, Faculty of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

...yet another Great Tertiary Debate

7-8.30pm Lecture Theatre 1.439, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Presented by The University of Auckland Society. RSVP by 7 August to society@auckland.ac.nz The General Election will be upon us very soon. This is your chance to come along and hear the Honourable Pete Hodgson (Labour), Minister for Tertiary Education, Dr Paul Hutchison, National spokesperson for tertiary education and Dail Jones, tertiary Education Spokesperson for NZ First, expand on tertiary policy for their respective parties. Chair: Assoc-Prof Raymond Miller, Head of Political Studies.

WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST

Centre for Lacanian Analysis seminar

Cherie Lacey, PhD candidate, FTVMs, UoA: *A school for love: Transference and the scene of analysis*. 5.15-7pm Rm WS114, Level 1, WS Bldg, AUT, 24 St Paul St. Queries to Lucille Holmes, la.holmes@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 14 AUGUST

Griffins morning tea

10am-12noon Parentspace, 4 Alfred St. Come and meet other parents who share similar experiences of raising children whilst studying. Queries to spro@auckland.ac.nz

Holy Communion

12.30-12.50pm Maclaurin Chapel, 18 Princes St. A weekly Holy Communion service will be held today led by the Maclaurin Chaplain. All students and staff are welcome.

Teaching and Learning workshop for academic staff

Adele Graham: *Engaging students in the classroom: Getting participation in large classes*. 1-4pm CAD Seminar Rm, 5th Floor, 76 Symonds St. Register to cadreception@auckland.ac.nz

Auckland Branch of Society for Legal and Social Philosophy meeting

Professor Martin Krygier, University of New South Wales: *Ideals in the world: The development and character of Phillip Selznick's 'Humanist Science'*. 5.30pm Forum 2 (Rm 211), 2nd Floor, Bldg 801, Faculty of Law, Eden Cres. Queries to Jim Evans, email pj.evans@auckland.ac.nz

Inaugural Lecture

Prof Martin Wild, Anatomy: *Birds and their brains: Comparative neuroanatomy and neuroethology*. 5.30-6.30pm Robb Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, 85 Park Rd, Grafton. Refreshments from 5pm.

Department of Sociology seminar

Prof Adrian Franklin, University of Tasmania: *On loneliness*. 6.30pm Lecture Theatre B10, Library Bldg, 5 Alfred St.

Inaugural Lecture

Prof Neil Broom, Chemical and Materials Engineering: *From metals to matrices to metaphysics: A personal journey through the material(s) world and beyond*. 7pm Lecture Theatre 1.439, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Visiting academic and wife looking for furnished, two-bdrm house or flat to rent near city centre from January to June 2009. Prefer quiet location within walking distance of University. Contact Bill at vwanderw@bowdoin.edu

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Northcote Point sunny brick and tile unit. Two bdrms, one bthrm, huge storage/studio with 12-foot stud, lock-up garage, completely redecorated, dishwasher. Registered valuation \$390,000. LIM report available. Asking price \$338,000. Phone owner on 480-0680 or email jerri.nz@xtra.co.nz

MISCELLANEOUS

International travel insurance. The AUS recommends that members use Uni-Care insurance for sabbatical, other study overseas. Uni-Care offers 15% off standard rates for travel out of NZ to all university staff, full-time tertiary students and their families. Uni-Care Educational Travel Insurance, PO Box 32-167, Devonport, ph (09) 446-1166, fax (09) 445-8832, email insure@uni-care.org Website www.uni-care.org

Need a builder? Renovations, home maintenance and repairs, new building work. Call Jack Patana on 620-0643 or (021) 206-4159. References available from UoA staff. Registered builder and master tradesperson. Or call Dan Plunket of DP Build, (021) 269-4094.

Volunteers needed for a study by PhD candidate Helen Malcolm studying issues for ageing in NZ. Predicting future needs and choice for care is important considering the projected population increase for over 65s in NZ volunteers, currently aged 45 to 65 years old, with the experience of caring for or supporting older relative or friends are needed. Participants would meet in a focus group setting to discuss experiences and thoughts on future ageing and support needs. For more information contact Helen Malcolm on (09) 373-7599 ex 87934 or h.malcolm@auckland.ac.nz.

Volunteers needed for study. A new study at the UoA, conducted by masters student Jaron Kung, is investigating whether the formation of blood vessels in the tendon causes knee pain in athletes. Commonly called jumper's knee, chronic patellar tendon pain is seen in athletes involved in repetitive movements such as jumping, kicking, quick stops and starts and running, such as volleyball and basketball players. The study is looking for volunteers from the Auckland area who have been suffering from pain associated with the tendon below the knee cap for more than three months but have not had surgery. For more information on the trial, contact Jaron Kung on (09) 373-7599 ext 88559.